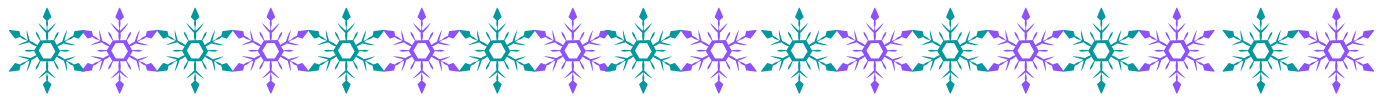
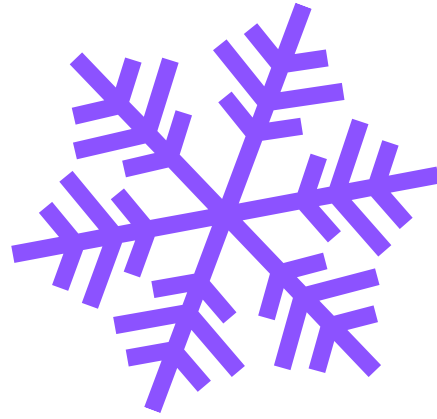




# WINTER 2022

## Newsletter



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Manchester stakes claim to a fascinating history. The Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division is one of many organizations working to celebrate this.

Over several weekends last fall, we collaborated to open majestic Weston Observatory -- built 125 years ago.

This winter, we will commence development of a strategic plan for restoration of Valley Cemetery, where former governors, military heroes, and titans of industry are buried.

By the end of spring, we expect to complete restoration of the magnificent Veterans Park monument, constructed in 1878.

And throughout the next year, we plan to install interpretive signs along trails and walkways, many of which follow historic railroad corridors.

In the meantime, we hope you get out to our winter recreational facilities and make some history of your own!

Mark Gomez  
Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery

### PONDERING AN OUTING?

When Mother Nature obliges, Dorrs Pond is open for skating. Get out and enjoy Manchester's hidden gem in Livingston Park!

We have recently closed the pond for skating due to warm weather, but hope to re-open it again before winter is over. The warming hut will be open (when ice skating is available) 9 AM to 2 PM during the week, and 9 AM to 4:30 PM on weekends. Check our [Facebook page](#) periodically for updates on the pond.



Patrons enjoying the ice at Dorrs Pond

### FEBRUARY VACATION FUN

Are you looking for activities during February vacation? Parks & Rec has you covered!

The JFK Coliseum will be open for public skate from 12 PM to 2 PM from Feb 28 to Mar 4. Skate rentals will be available. Cash only.

Beech St School will be open 9 AM to 12 PM from Feb 28 to Mar 4 for a basketball shootaround and a 3v3 tournament. Register at Beech St School on Feb 28. Open for kids in grades 3- 8.

New this year, we will be hosting a February Vacation camp from 9 AM to 3:30 PM at Hallsville School for children ages 6-12. Participants will enjoy arts and crafts, sports, and games. The fee is \$100, and we have 24 spots available.

Use the QR code to register below.



### CLEM LEMIRE TOURNAMENT

Calling all youth hockey players! Registration is open for the 2022 Clem Lemire Tournament. The tournament features an Elementary School Division and a Middle School Division.

The Elementary School Division (grades 3-5) is open to Manchester residents, anyone who attends school in Manchester (public, private, charter), and residents of Goffstown, Bedford, Hooksett, Auburn, Londonderry, and Litchfield.

The Middle School Division (grades 6-8) is open to Manchester residents and anyone attending school in Manchester (public, private, charter).

Use the QR code to register.



# TOGETHER WE CAN

In late November, Parks & Rec entered into a partnership with Safari Youth Club, a non-profit organization founded by refugees to support Manchester's immigrant community.

Through after-school programming at the old Hallsville School gym, Safari Youth Club provides academic support and soccer training that assists in the well-being and development of their community.



Safari Youth participants studying and receiving tutoring



Safari Youth participants practicing soccer drills

# EMPLOYEE'S CORNER

This edition, we're turning the spotlight on another invaluable employee --Jeff Plourde of our parks maintenance section.

Jeff was promoted to a crew leader role this past year. He is primarily responsible for downtown parks, but has taken the initiative to become one of our go-to irrigation specialists at park and school locations city-wide. Jeff's attention to detail and easy-going nature are true assets.

More recently, Jeff has earned the nickname "The Ice Doctor" for his expertise getting Dorrs Pond ready for skating. If you're looking for outdoor fun, he's got the prescription for you.



Jeff "The Ice Doctor" Plourde poses with a shovel on Dorrs Pond

# NOTHING BUT NET

Saturday Basketball is a little over halfway through the season. There is still plenty of time to join us at Beech St School to play pick-up games and work on your shot.

You can still sign up at Beech St School on Saturdays. Program hours are 9 AM to 4 PM. Each age group has its own 90-minute block:

- 7-8 years old 9 AM to 10:30 AM
- 9-10 years old 10:30 AM to 12 PM
- 11-12 years old 1 PM to 2:30 PM
- 13-17 years old 2:30 PM to 4 PM

For more information, email [parks@manchesternh.gov](mailto:parks@manchesternh.gov).



Action during the first week of Saturday Basketball

# BOOK NOOKS

Through a partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Manchester, we installed book nooks at three local parks where the Kiwanis Club had previously donated monies to support park renovation work.

The book nooks were installed at Rock Rimmon Park, Sweeney Park, and Pulaski Park.

These book nooks allow families to share books with the neighborhood and find their next favorite read.



The Book Nook at Sweeney Park on the west side of Manchester

# ICE ARENAS

The JFK Coliseum and West Side Ice Arena are open for the season. There are many ways to enjoy our ice arenas. Check out a few below.

## JFK

Public Skate

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Saturdays and Sundays 2 PM to 4 PM

\$5 Adults

\$3 Children/Seniors

\$5 Skate Rental \*Only available on weekends\*

Cash only

## West Side Arena

Stick and Puck

Monday through Friday 9 AM to 11 AM

\$7 admission (Goalies play for free)

If under 16, must be accompanied by an adult

Cash only

For private hockey or ice skating rentals, email [parks@manchesternh.gov](mailto:parks@manchesternh.gov) or call 603-624-6444.



# A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

Santa stopped by the JFK Coliseum to take pictures with patrons and spread holiday cheer to everyone at public skate this past December.

Santa did not make it onto the ice as he prefers to be flying by reindeer.



Santa poses at the west end of the JFK Coliseum during public skate

# BIKE FIX IT STATION

Over the last year, with help from the QC Bike Collective, we have installed bike fix-it stations all around Manchester. Most recently, we installed a bike fix-it station at West High School.

Students and neighbors will now be able to fix a flat tire or tighten their chains on the go. These stations support the ongoing effort to make Manchester more biker-friendly.



Bike stand and tools at West High School



Air pump at West High School

# WINTER OPERATIONS

During the winter months, Parks & Rec crews are busy with a number of critical tasks. Among these are: cutting back overgrown vegetation along trails and fence lines; responding to fallen trees and limbs; and clearing snow from lots, walkways, and stairs at parks and schools.

The repeated thawing and re-freezing during recent storms has posed a particular challenge. Crews have put in long hours plowing, scraping, and salting. In many cases, they have had to return to the same location multiple times.

At the end of the hard work, seeing students, faculty, and park patrons able to safely reach their destinations is a gratifying reward.



Parks & Rec's sidewalk plow clearing walkways at Victory Park

# MANCHESTER PARKS & REC

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